

ACH 4362(2) WRITER

EXETER PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PORT MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR THE YEAR

1950

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EXETER PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

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PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 1950.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for 1950 which has been prepared on the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health Memorandum 302 S.A.1946.

Although the Ministry of Health Circular 103/50 indicates that any permanent arrangements which have been fully described in the Annual Reports for 1946-1949 and have not since been altered may be omitted from the present report I feel, in the interest particularly of new members of the Authority, that the report should be comprehensive.

On the 30th September, 1950, Mr. F. Knight, your Port Sanitary Inspector for Exmouth, resigned owing to advancing years and ill health. Mr. Knight has always been a most conscientious and efficient officer and his going is very much regretted. Mr. P. Bradford of Exmouth kindly undertook his duties ~~as~~ a temporary measure until such time as a permanent officer was appointed. It is anticipated that the Additional Sanitary Inspector to the Exmouth U.D.C. will be offered the post.

In general it may be stated that the hygiene of the ships crews and quarters was found to be of a high order and any defects which were found were promptly remedied by the ships' Masters.

I am also pleased to report that no cases of infectious diseases amongst the crews occurred.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Port Health Authority, the Clerk and all Members of the Staff for the interest shown and their co-operation and help given to me at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

H. C. Anderson

Port Medical Officer.

S T A F F.

Port Medical Officer

L.G. ANDERSON
M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Port Medical Officer

D.L.H. MOORE,
B.A., M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O.

Port Health Inspectors.

F.G. DAVIES
M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.I.S.A.
(Meat and Other Foods Certificate).

Mr. F. KNIGHT.
(until 30th September 1950)
Mr. W.C. TROUT.

(Mr. F.G. Davies is also the Senior Sanitary
Inspector to the Exeter City Council).

1. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE A (1)

		Number	Tonnage	Number of inspections	
				By the Port Medical Officer	By the Port Sanitary Inspector
Foreign	Steamers	1	206	-	1
	Motor +	21	2242	2	37
	Sailing	-	-	-	-
	Fishing	-	-	-	-
Total Foreign		22	2448	2	38
Coastwise	Steamers	10	1841	2	10
	Motor +	256	32582	7	354
	Sailing	-	-	-	-
	Fishing	-	-	-	-
Total Coastwise		266	34423	9	364
Total Foreign and Coastwise		288	36871	11	402

TABLE A (2)

Refers to vessels passing through the canal to Exeter Basin and included in Table 1, above.

		Number	Tonnage	Number of inspections	
				By the Port Medical Officer	By the Port Sanitary Inspector
Foreign	Steamers	-	-	-	-
	Motor +	16	1434	-	16
	Sailing	-	-	-	-
	Fishing	-	-	-	-
Total Foreign		16	1434	-	16
Coastwise	Steamers	-	-	-	-
	Motor +	181	17192	-	181
	Sailing	-	-	-	-
	Fishing	-	-	-	-
Total Coastwise		181	17192	-	181
Total Foreign and Coastwise		197	18626	-	197

Note:- + Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.



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TABLE A (3)

Table showing Annual tonnage of Shipping entering the port. () = Number of Ships.

(a) Refers to all ships.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Exmouth (Harbour)	+	+	21143 (133)	19174 (100)	18245 (91)
Exeter (Basin)	+	+	14431 (144)	17559 (187)	18626 (197)
Topsham	+	+	-	-	-
Total	23980 (141)	28007 (222)	35574 (277)	36733 (287)	36871 (288)

(b) Refers to ships from foreign ports and included in (a) above.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Exmouth (Harbour)	+	+	3035 (20)	3651 (24)	1014 (6)
Exeter (Basin)	+	+	911 (9)	687 (7)	1434 (16)
Topsham	+	+	-	-	-
Total	3772 (26)	2484 (20)	3946 (29)	4338 (31)	2448 (22)

+ Figures not available.

TABLE A (4)

Number reported to be defective.	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied.	Number of vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry.	Number of vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board.
4	4	Nil	Nil

2. CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

(a) Passenger traffic during the year.

Apart from the day cruises by M.V. Bambo and Pride of Teignmouth and the regular sailings of the Exmouth-Starcross passenger ferry the passenger traffic during the year consisted of a mother and 2 children aboard M.V.Eban which came from Belfast; two passengers aboard M.V.Arent M, which came from Delfzyll; and five passengers who travelled from Lubick, Finland, on the M.V.Elbing IV.

(b) Cargo traffic.(1) Principal imports -

Coal	121 vessels
Petrol	122 "
Timber	15 "
Timber & Tinned Meat	1 "
Oak Logs & Brandy	1 "
Potatoes	5 "
Bog Ore	3 "
Iron Pipe	3 "
Potash	2 "
Paraffin	1 "
R.N. Stores	8 "

Foreign ports from which the vessels arrived -

Antwerp	-	Potash
Delfzyll	-	Bog Ore
Holland	-	Bog Ore
Ostend	-	Cement
Honfleur	-	Oak Logs & Brandy
Paris	-	Timber & Tinned Meat
France	-	Timber
Paris-Rouen	-	Timber
Rouen	-	Timber
Paris	-	Timber
Marsvekem	-	Timber
Sweden	-	Timber
Lubick(Finland)	-	Timber
Dunkirk	-	Timber
Wismar	-	Timber

(2) Principal exports -

Clay	for	Paris
Spent Oxide	for	Holland

3. WATER SUPPLY.

(1) Source of supply for (a) the Port and (b) Shipping.

(1) Exmouth Harbour - Exmouth Urban District Main Supply. Supply adequate, satisfactory quality.

(2) Exeter Basin - Exeter City Council. Supply adequate and quality satisfactory.

(3) Topsham - main supply adequate, satisfactory quality.

(2) Hydrants and Hosepipes.

There are 5 hydrants and hosepipes for use in the above ports. They are flushed out prior to use and regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector or in the case of Exeter Basin by the Canal Superintendent.

(3) Water boats. There are no water boats.

4. PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1933 and 1945.

(1) Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health.

Declaration of Health required only in the case of Foreign going vessels from foreign ports are completed by the Master of the Vessel and handed to the Customs Officer or Port Sanitary Inspector.

(2) Boarding of Vessels on arrival.

(a) All ships from foreign ports are boarded on arrival at Exmouth and the Declaration of Health completed and handed to the appropriate officer.

(b) All coastwise shipping is boarded and inspected either at Exmouth or at Exeter Basin.

A limited number of vessels are inspected by the Port Medical Officer as a routine.

(3) Notification to the Authority of inward vessels requiring special attention (wireless messages, land signal stations, information from Pilots, Customs Officer etc.)

Arrangements have been made with the Post Office for the transmission of Wireless Messages if required. None was received during 1950.

(4) Mooring Stations designated under Article 10.

(a) Traffic to Exeter.

Shipping from foreign ports moor to one of the three buoys in the Bight.

(b) Traffic to Exmouth.

Shipping from foreign ports tie up at the Pier Head, Exmouth, unless there is a case of or suspected case of infectious disease on board in which case the Master is instructed to tie up to one of the three buoys in the Bight.

(5) Particulars of standing exemptions from the provisions of Article 14. (Detention of Ships by Port Medical Officer).

There are no standing exemptions from the provisions of Article 14.

(6) Experience of working Article 16. (Restriction on boarding or leaving ship).

No difficulties have been experienced in the working of this Article.

(7) What, if any, arrangements have been made for:-

(a) Premises and waiting rooms for medical examination.

There are no premises specially designated for medical examination.

(b) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons and clothing and other articles.

This authority is not competent to undertake the disinfection of ships, which if the occasion arises will be referred to Plymouth for this purpose.

- (c) Premises for the temporary accommodation of persons for which such accommodation is required for purposes of the regulation.

No special premises have been designated for the temporary accommodation of persons, but should this become necessary it would be provided at one of the hospitals in the area.

- (d) Hospital accommodation for Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox and other infectious diseases.

Cases of Smallpox or suspected smallpox will be admitted to the Upton Pyne Smallpox Hospital (Tel.No.Stoke Canon 207) through the Whipton Isolation Hospital (Tel.No.Exeter 67158).

Special ambulance transport can be obtained by telephoning Exeter 67158.

Consultants - Smallpox. When necessary the services of the following consultants may be called upon:-

- (1) Dr. C. Seward - 20, West Southernhay, Exeter.
Tel.No. Exeter 2110.
- (2) Dr. W.J. Laird - City Hospital, Exeter.
Tel.No. Exeter 2671 - Office.
Exeter 3116 - Home.

Other infectious diseases will be dealt with at the Exeter Isolation Hospital, Whipton.

- (e) Ambulance Transport.

An efficient and adequate ambulance service is available day and night for infectious and non-infectious cases.

- (f) Supervision of Contacts.

This is undertaken by the Port Medical Officer, his Deputy, or by the Sanitary Inspector according to the requirements of the particular case.

- (8) Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rats for plague.

The required examination will be made through the Public Health Laboratory Service, 7, Dix's Field, Exeter.

- (9) Arrangements for other bacteriological or pathological examination.

Examinations under this heading are made either at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter, or the Public Health Services Laboratory, Exeter.

- (10) Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among sailors under international arrangements.

Masters of vessels are informed that seamen requiring such treatment should attend at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital on the following days and times:-

Mondays	3 p.m.	to	5 p.m.
Fridays	6 p.m.	to	8 p.m.

- (11) Arrangements for the interment of the dead.

There are adequately equipped mortuaries at Exmouth and Exeter. The nearest crematorium is at Plymouth.

TABLE C.Cases of Infectious sickness landed from vessels.

NIL.

TABLE D.Cases of Infectious sickness occurring on vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

No cases of plague, cholera, yellow fever, smallpox or typhus fever occurred on any vessel and no plague infested rats were discovered.

5. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

(1) Steps taken for detection of rodent plague.

(a) In ships in the port - Enquiries are made from masters of all vessels using the port concerning the presence of rats, and, if present, of signs of unusual mortality among the rats.

(b) On quays, wharfs, warehouses, etc. in the vicinity of the port - Regular inspections are made by the Sanitary Inspector and any unusual signs are notified to the Medical Officer.

(2) Measures taken to prevent the passage of rats between ships and the shore.

Masters are questioned regarding evidence of rats on board. Other than this action no further precautions are at present taken.

With reference to Paragraph 5, Section 2, of my Annual Report for the year 1948, which dealt with measures to be taken to prevent the passage of rats between ships and the shore, the Ministry of Health have advised that rat-guards are not considered to be very effective and that it is preferable to concentrate on maintaining the lowest possible level of the rat population in ships and docks by fumigating, trapping and baiting. It is, therefore, not proposed to insist on rat-guards or fenders being used as routine.

(3) Method of deratisation of ships.

(a) Ships - any ship requiring deratisation is referred to Plymouth for the necessary measures, and the next port of call of the vessel is notified.

(b) Premises in the vicinity of docks or quays - These premises are inspected regularly by the Rodent Operatives under the Sanitary Inspector.

(4) Measures taken for the detection of rat prevalence in ships and shore.

Systematic inspections are made with special reference to rat excreta, rat runs, damage to foodstuffs etc.

(5) Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 - Infestation Order, 1943.

There has been no action required under this section.

6. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

TABLE J.

Classification of nuisances.				
Nationality of Vessels	Number Inspected during the year.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British	260	nil	nil	2
Other Nations	28	nil	nil	2

7. FOOD INSPECTION.

- (1) Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, the Public Health (Preservatives etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940.

One consignment from Paris included 197 cases (nearly 4 tons) of Tinned Meat which was examined and found to be sound before being released for human consumption.

- (2) Shellfish - Information respecting any shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Port Health Authority stating whether they are, in the opinion of the Medical Officer liable to pollution. Report of any action taken under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Mussel beds are established in the estuary opposite to Lympstone. In view of the outfalls of crude untreated sewage at Topsham, Starcross and Lympstone such shellfish are liable to pollution and accordingly the Exeter Shellfish Regulations of 1919 were made. Briefly those regulations prohibit the collection of shellfish from two areas, one in the vicinity of the Lympstone sewer outlets and the other in the vicinity of Starcross. Furthermore the regulations made it obligatory for all persons collecting shellfish (excluding periwinkles) for sale for human consumption to subject such shellfish to either (1) sterilisation by steaming under pressure for at least 6 minutes in a suitable apparatus or (2) by an approved method of cleansing e.g. by means of water sterilised by chlorine.

Sterilisation by steaming is employed at the Exe Shellfish Company, Exmouth, and of the 14 samples of shellfish which were sent for bacteriological examination during the year all were found to be satisfactory.

23rd January, 1951.

